

March 27, 1980

LB 647

persons under age 65 are also made eligible for homestead exemption in the same manner as those persons over 65 under present law. Number four, additional categories are added for low income persons age 75 and over, which enables these persons to receive an additional \$1,000 of income without changing their exemption status. The April 1st application deadline and related provisions are extended to June 15th, and six, the definition of income is expanded to include items of income that are not now included in federal adjusted gross income and the sliding scale income tables are raised to compensate for these inclusions. This is the contents of the committee amendments. If there are any specific questions relating to these, I would suggest that you direct them to Senator Labedz as these are now the bill, Mr. President. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is on the adoption of the committee amendments. Do you want to speak to the committee amendments, Senator....okay.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition of LB 647 as it stands now. The bill is completely rewritten in committee. The only thing that is similar to my bill as I introduced it is the \$40,000 valuation. I believe the amendment was submitted by Senator Johnson, and I want to first explain why I oppose the amendment. First of all, it is similar to the circuit breaker that we had a couple of years ago, and I hope that you will notice, and I think I gave you a handout yesterday, that his bill would include the following as income guidelines before they are eligible for the homestead exemption....such things as capital gains, strike benefits, support money, cash public assistance...now that is welfare or anything that they may be on, or SSI, in any type of relief, the gross amount of any pension or annuity, all payments received under the Federal Social Security Act, and this part here, the Social Security especially is what has upset many, many elderly people. And I would like to give you an example when it comes to Social Security. I received a telephone call and then a letter from an elderly couple over 65 years of age. One of them receives \$340 a month. That is the wife. The husband receives \$380, and they have a 40 year old retarded son that receives \$220. All totaled, that amounts to \$11,280. They have no money in the bank. The wife also works at a nursing home and receives \$2400 a year. The total amount of their income for the three people is \$13,680. According to the committee amendments, this married couple with their retarded son, that never had to file an income tax return because they had no taxable income, no savings, and was